

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a micro molten glass droplet, comprising the steps of:

colliding a molten glass droplet with a micro through hole formed in a plate-shaped member; and

pushing out at least part of the glass droplet to a reverse surface of the micro through hole as a micro droplet, thereby forming a glass droplet with a diameter of not more than 5 mm.

2. (Original) A manufacturing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said collision of the molten glass droplet is by a free fall of the molten glass droplet dropped from a nozzle.

3. (Original) A method of manufacturing a micro optical element, comprising the steps of:

colliding a molten glass droplet with a micro through hole formed in a plate-shaped member;

pushing out at least part of the glass droplet to a reverse surface of the micro through hole as a micro droplet, thereby forming a glass droplet with a diameter of not more than 5 mm; and

solidifying the obtained glass droplet by cooling, thereby obtaining a micro optical element.

4. (Original) A manufacturing method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said micro optical element is a micro spherical lens.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a micro optical element, comprising the steps of:

colliding a molten glass droplet with a micro through hole formed in a plate-shaped member;

pushing out at least part of the glass droplet to a reverse surface of the micro through hole as a micro droplet, thereby forming a glass droplet with a diameter of not more than 5 mm; ~~and~~

solidifying the obtained glass droplet by cooling, thereby obtaining a ~~pressing~~ material for pressing; and

re-heating the ~~obtained pressing~~ material for pressing, and pressing the ~~said~~ material with a mold, thereby obtaining a micro optical element.

6. (Original) A manufacturing method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said micro optical element is a micro spherical lens.

7. (Original) A method of manufacturing a micro molten glass droplet, comprising the steps of:

colliding a molten glass droplet freely dropped from a nozzle, with a micro through hole formed in a plate-shaped member; and

by adjusting any or all of a diameter of the micro through hole, a distance from the nozzle to the micro through hole and a temperature of molten glass, pushing out at least part of the glass droplet to a reverse surface of the micro through hole as a micro droplet, thereby forming a glass droplet with a diameter of not more than 5 mm.